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Outside



Partly cloudy
Highs in the mid-60s
Lows in the lower 50s
For Friday:
Showers,
high: 62; low: 35



Sports

Herd baseball hopes to finish strong

Page 7.



Life!

Life! underneath the circus big top

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Opinion

Corridor H to open economic door

Page 4.

Marshall University

the Parthenon

page edited by Christina Redekopp

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Students advised to be wary of travel scams

by **ALYSON WALLS**
managing editor

It sounded so official.

Flyers posted around campus and a classified ad published in the Parthenon in October 1994 promised students a weekend of sightseeing in New York City — the World Trade Center, Statue of Liberty, John Lennon Memorial and more.

It sounded like a great bargain.

For a mere \$100 per person, students were encouraged to reserve their place on the bus because seating was "extremely limited."

It sounded easy.

The ads listed a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week

phone number to call to make reservations for the bus tour. After that, students simply mailed their money to Group Tours Limited and they were on their way to the Big Apple.

It was a scam. The bus never left, and the people never heard from trip coordinator Randy McCoy, who apparently made off with the students' cash.

"Travel scams are common occurrences at colleges and universities throughout West Virginia and all across the nation," said Chad Robinson, a consumer advocate in the state Attorney General's Office. "The groups particularly like to prey upon college students and senior citizens."

Robinson and James Weekly, a travel coun-

selor at Huntington AAA, said students should be careful when planning trips for spring break or at other times of the year. They should be especially wary of flyers that dangle amazingly low rates for cruises and other vacation package deals.

"That's how the company hooks the potential customer," Weekly said. "And these companies are out there all the time."

Robinson said many scam artists pop up on college campuses around spring break. "It's those groups students need to be careful of, because most legitimate businesses cannot afford to give away their services for next to nothing," he said.

Although some of the discount trips are often

legitimate ventures, Robinson said groups that try to pressure students into making a quick deal are usually up to no good.

"If they seem too eager, or ask for money, credit card or bank account numbers before they volunteer to send you information, you should watch out," he said.

While some agencies selling trips may actually deliver the discount packages they advertise, accommodations may be substandard, Weekly said.

"The motels may be bug infested or blocks from the beach — a variety of things could occur that you didn't expect," he said. "With

see **SCAMS**, page 6

Where do you plan to go this Spring Break?



From warm sandy beaches to beautiful scenic parks, students who wish to indulge in a Spring Break vacation have many choices open to them. With the break just around the corner, students are planning their personal vacation stops within the state and all across the country. Some may even opt for an international get-away.

Reorganization, parking and computer program deletion top agenda

by **AMY DURRAH**
reporter

The organization of one college and the controversial reorganization of two others join parking and the proposed deletion of a computer program at the top of the Faculty Senate's agenda today.

The Senate will meet at 4 p.m. in the John Marshall Room of the Memorial Student Center.

A summary of the proposed College of Nursing and Health Professions reorganization plan was presented to the members of the Academic Planning Committee (APC). Dr. Lynn B. Welch, professor and dean of the School of Nursing, supplied the APC with positive feedback from the Department Chairs whose departments will be effected by the proposed plan, according to the Academic Planning Committee Recommendation, SR-97-98-36.

The APC recommends the reorganization plans for both the College of Science and the College of Liberal Arts be approved as proposed with amended inclusions of two recommendations each, according to the Academic Planning Committee Recommendation, SR-97-98-37 and SR-97-98-38.

The recommendations are "that an annual evaluation/assessment program be adopted for the new divisional structure[s]," and "that the Dean and Division Coordinators work for continued faculty and student input in the development and implementation of the reorganization plan[s]," according to SR-97-98-37 and SR-97-98-38.

The Senate will also address the Physical Facilities and Planning Committee Recommendation SR-97-98-35. This resolution recommends the approval of the parking policy written by the Office of Public Safety that "would simplify the present policy and structure and add flexibility by allowing faculty and staff to park in any faculty/staff designated lot with the exception of Smith Hall lot," according to SR-97-98-35.

see **AGENDA**, page 6

Students' last chance to drop classes Friday

by **ERRIN JEWELL**
reporter

Students who are unsure about whether or not to keep individual classes must make their decisions by the end of this week.

Roberta Ferguson, registrar, said Friday is the last day for students to withdraw from individual classes. After Friday, students may only drop classes if they are withdrawing completely from the university, she said.

It is not difficult for a student to drop a class, Ferguson said. To drop a class, she said a student must "pick up a drop or schedule adjustment form from old main and write the course reference number and section of the classes and then check 'drop.'"

Then a student needs his or her instructor to sign the form, she said. "Students should get their professors' signatures immediately," Ferguson said. "Sometimes students wait until the last minute to get the signatures, and then they can't find their professors. If they don't have their forms signed, then they can't drop their classes."

Ferguson said if a student is on academic probation, he or she must also obtain the signature of the dean of his or her college before dropping a class.

see **DROP**, page 6

Police give advice to keep homes safe

Securing items in closets among tips to avoid theft during spring break

by **BLAINE MULLINS**
reporter

As students approach spring break, police are giving advice to residents on methods of securing their homes while away and tips to prevent being ripped off during vacation.

Capt. Jim Terry, interim director of public safety, said that there are several precautions that can be taken to avoid theft while away on spring break. The first and most important thing for campus residents is to lock windows and doors, he said.

"We are not advocating that students empty their rooms," Terry said. He said students should not pack their cars the night before, leaving all of their valuables visible in their cars overnight because they could be subject to theft.

Terry said campus residents should take valuables of personal importance, such as jewelry, credit cards and checkbooks with them, and never leave cash in the rooms. If students feel it is necessary, they can also secure larger items such as

stereos and televisions in their closets, he said.

Capt. Alan Meek, detective bureau commander of the Huntington Police Department, gave tips for those students living in apartments off campus.

"We encourage students who have computers to take them home," Meek said. "It's a hassle, but thieves prey on college kids. I can also say to students living off campus that it would be wise to take anything of value home. I would not leave anything that thieves can pawn off." This includes stereos, televisions, VCRs, CDs, and other similar items, he said.

Meek explained that if possible, students should leave both porch and living room lights on while away. It would also

"Apartments are a completely different environment compared to the residence halls. We haven't had any problems with break-ins in the dormitories."

— **Capt. Jim Terry**,
interim director of public safety

be wise to have a friend or neighbor occasionally watch the apartment for anything suspicious and to collect the mail, Meek said. Students who cannot have their mail collected can go to the post office and tell them to hold it, he said.

"It is crucial that students let a limited number of people know when and how long they will be gone," Meek said. "They

see **ADVICE**, page 6

Med students see simulated patients

by SHAWN GAINER
reporter

School of Medicine Interactive Patient Program allows physicians and medical students to realistically simulate clinical examinations.

The internet based program was created in 1995 by Kent Hayes, director of clinical and administrative computing, and Dr. Christopher Leahmann, who currently works at Johns Hopkins University. It was recognized as a semifinalist in the Global Information Infrastructure Awards. The awards program recognizes outstanding new uses of internet technology.

"Physicians can use it to gain Continuing Medical Education credit and students

can use it to practice building patient medical histories," Hayes said.

While other internet medical programs also present symptoms and require the user to make diagnostic and treatment choices, the School of Medicine's Interactive Patient Program is unique in its use of a natural language processor. Those who access the program are required to ask the computer patient full-sentence questions and use the responses to construct a medical history for the patient.

"Since its introduction in 1995, we haven't seen anyone come up with anything better," Hayes said.

"The programs we've seen are static, not interactive ...

The purpose and intent of this program is to simulate an actual encounter with a patient."

The Interactive Patient Program is currently being accessed by physicians from other nations, including The United Kingdom, Germany and Australia.

Hayes said he hopes to upgrade the program in the future.

"We wish to create more patients but we haven't had the time or the money yet," Hayes said. "We're looking into all kinds of granting agencies. We've also been delayed by the upcoming move to the University Medical Center." Hayes said new technology will allow the program to improve.

Research could help obesity

by SHAWN GAINER
reporter

Research conducted at Marshall could eventually lead to the creation of a genetically-based test that would identify obesity-prone humans.

"This particular gene has already been identified in rats," Dr. Vernon E. Reichenbecher, Jr., associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology said. "We can conduct this test on baby rats and predict which ones will be obese."

Researchers analyze proteins in blood samples taken from rats, noting differences between lean and obese specimens. Rats who carry two copies of the obesity gene grow to weigh twice as much as normal rats. Rats that carry one copy of the gene are classified as carriers. While carriers do not develop obesity, their offspring may inherit the tendency.

"Potentially, this test could be applied to humans," Reichenbecher said. "We're not sure yet because human genetics is so complicated. It is much easier to narrow things down to a single variable in an animal study."

Reichenbecher added that predicting obesity in humans is complicated by environmental and behavioral factors. "With rats, we're studying one factor that can easily be controlled," Reichenbecher said.

Funding for the project was originally obtained through EPSCoR, a federal program that distributes research grants to states that traditionally have had difficulty competing for research funds. Currently, research funds are being provided by the state government.

"This research could eventually benefit West Virginia."

— Dr. Vernon E. Reichenbecher

"This research could eventually benefit West Virginia," Reichenbecher said. "West Virginia ranks very high in its obesity rate and this contributes to a high incidence of high blood pressure and heart problems."

Parts of the study have been submitted for publication in the journal Obesity Research.

Others involved in the study are Roger Boggs, Ph.D. candidate, Dr. William D. McCumbee, professor of physiology, and Dr. E. Bowie Kahle, professor of biological sciences.

Vitamin E fights prostate cancer, study finds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The risk of prostate cancer was reduced by a third and the death rate from the disease was 41 per cent lower among men who took vitamin E pills, according to a study of thousands of smokers in Finland.

Men in medical field speak about careers

by ERRIN JEWELL
reporter

Three local health care professionals informed students about medical careers during the "What's It Like?" lecture last week in the Shawkey Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Dr. Robert B. Walker, chairman of family and community health at the school of medicine; Hugh Murray, physical therapist at Huntington Physical Therapy, Inc. and Russell L. Fry, second-year medical student at the school of medicine and former Yeager Scholar, comprised the panel of speakers.

After telling the audience about their educational backgrounds, the panelists talked about the ups and downs of their jobs.

"It can be exciting or disappointing," Walker said. "It's rewards are very satisfying. However, the joys and challenges of medicine are part of the frustrations of it."

Walker said because medical care is a resource people need, physicians are well paid. But, they are "also vulnerable to liability," he said. He also said communication skills and empathy are important qualities for physicians.

"Medicine isn't for everybody," he said. Rates of divorce, suicide and alcoholism among physicians are high, he said.

Murray described his profession as "exercise-based rehabilitation." He said physical therapy is rapidly changing.

The shortage of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants is being filled, and their salaries are decreasing, Murray said.

Fry said life as a medical student is different from that of other college students.

"Medical school starts out slow and gradually gets harder," he said. "It's like stacking on one brick at a time. At the end of the year you realize how much you've learned."

Fry said attending medical school is like a job. "It's not as bad as the rumors or television shows make it out to be," he said. "I still have a social life. You can do the same things you always did before, just not as frequently or to the same extent."

Although high academic performance is necessary, discipline is more important than "your I. Q. or how many trivia questions you can answer," he said.

Fry said paying for medical school shouldn't be a barrier for students. "If you ask for it, financial aid is available. It will give you all the money you need," he said. "There are scholarships, grants, tuition waivers and loans to take care of all of your needs."

He and Walker said that many students accumulate about \$100,000 in debt while attending school. They said there are programs that will help students pay off their debts.

"Sometimes hospitals in rural areas will pay for medical if you agree to work for them," Fry said.

Health leaders urge physicians to treat addicts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Drug and alcohol abuse are medical problems that respond to medical treatment just as well as diabetes and other chronic diseases do — and treatment is cheaper and more effective than jail, says new research.

Yet the nation spends only 20 percent of its \$17 billion drug-control budget to treat addicts, and the public believes that jailing addicts is best, a bipartisan group of public health experts said Tuesday.

"We've been telling people to 'just say no' when addiction is a biological event," said Dr. June Osborn, who chairs the new Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy.

"There must be a bridge between what the public believes and the science," added Dr. Lonnie Bristow of the American Medical Association.

The group of prominent physicians and public health leaders from the Clinton, Bush and Reagan administrations commissioned the research.

The leaders are using the information to urge doctors to play a greater role in diagnosing and treating addiction — and are providing it to politicians who control drug-treatment money.

About 14 million American alcoholics and 6.7 million drug addicts relapse after drug treatment. The scientists concluded that: Jailing a drug addict costs \$25,900 per year. A year of traditional outpatient drug treatment costs \$1,800, intensive outpatient care costs \$2,500, methadone treatment for heroin users costs \$3,900 and residential drug-treatment programs range from \$4,400 to \$6,800 a year.

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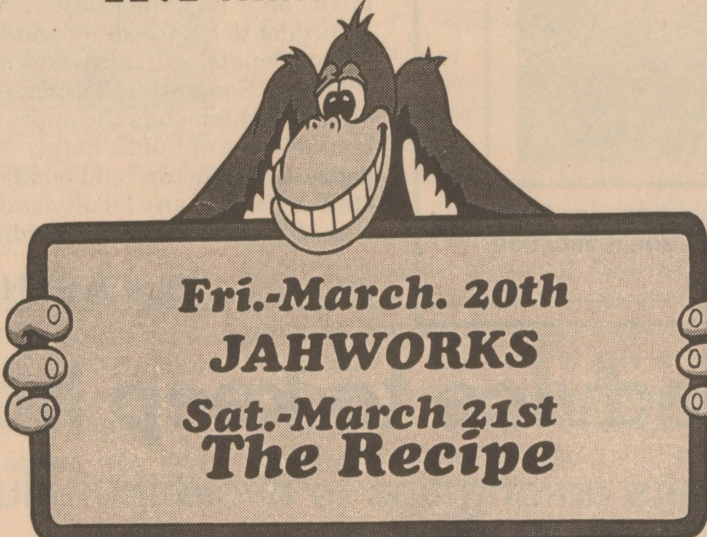
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Page edited by Rebecca Cantley

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Auction upsets Kennedys

NEW YORK (AP) — One scribbled line of John F. Kennedy's "Ask not ..." inaugural address and nine photocopied pages of the speech sold for \$39,000 Wednesday as a two-day JFK memorabilia auction that had alarmed Kennedy's children began.

Before the bidding opened, the collector selling most of the 500 or so items reached an agreement with Caroline Kennedy and John F. Kennedy Jr. to return some of their father's more "intensely per-

sonal" items.

Among the items Robert L. White agreed to turn over were their father's journals and a clock the president kept in the Oval Office.

The Kennedy children surrendered claims to ownership of the other auction items, including JFK's St. Christopher medal money clip, photographs, correspondence between their father and mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and clothing worn by their parents.

The agreement also did not cover the watch Kennedy was wearing on the day he was assassinated, and the briefcase he carried with him on that trip to Dallas — both of which his children had asked for.

White was offering the briefcase for sale. He no longer owned the watch, which was being offered by an unknown seller. White's lawyer, Robert Adler, said his client was "very glad to have the controversy behind him."

Teen becomes first juvenile federally charged as hacker

BOSTON (AP) — A teenager accused of crippling an airport control tower has become the first juvenile charged in federal court with computer hacking.

The U.S. Justice Department said Wednesday that the Massachusetts boy, whose name, age and hometown were not disclosed, has agreed to plead guilty.

If a judge accepts the plea bargain, the boy will get two years' probation, a fine and community service. He will

also be banned from using a computer with a modem for two years.

"These are not pranks. This is not like throwing spitballs at your teacher," U.S. Attorney Donald Stern said. "Hackers should know that they will be caught and they will be prosecuted."

The boy broke into a Bell Atlantic computer system on March 10, 1997, causing a system crash that knocked out power at Worcester Airport. Communication

between the tower and aircraft was disrupted for six hours.

No accidents or close calls resulted.

"We dodged a bullet that day," said Joseph Hogan, area manager for the air traffic control company.

The control tower printer, which monitors flight progress, shut down. Radios used to communicate with planes were also knocked out. A battery-operated backup transmitter came on.

Colorado county leads population growth in nation

PARKER, Colo. (AP) — According to figures released Tuesday by the Census Bureau, Douglas County, Colorado led the nation last year with 12.9 percent growth from 1996. It was the fourth year in a row the county south of Denver has been the leader.

Ap Associated Press

briefs

Boy enters race for mayor's seat

GRESHAM, Ore. (AP) — Robert H. Banning III wants to be mayor.

The 17-year-old junior at Centennial High School insists his candidacy is for real.

"I feel that Gresham kind of has a bad rap, like an ugly stepchild," he said Friday, a day after he filed to run. "I'm like, 'Maybe I can change that.'"

Banning, whose idol is Newt Gingrich, said he's wanted to be a politician since he turned 14, about the time his parents began taking him to neighborhood meetings to complain about speeding motorists.

He won't disclose his party affiliation until he registers to vote on his 18th birthday in October, one month before the election.

Banning is the youngest mayoral candidate in Gresham's history. The

only other person so far seeking the unpaid, non-partisan position is City Council member Bob Moore.

Yale University med students learn from art

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Some Yale University medical students are leaving the operating gallery for the art gallery.

The 28 students are studying visual cues in artwork at the Yale Center for British Art, with the hope the lessons will make them more observant when dealing with patients.

The program, developed by dermatology professor Dr. Irwin M. Braverman of the Yale Cancer Center, is designed to teach students to judge how thoughts and feelings are communicated visually.

Growth affects Putnam

SCOTT DEPOT, W.Va. (AP) — Karen Hughes recalls watching from the window of her family's farm as Putnam County's first housing division was built across the road.

That was 25 years ago. "They've been putting them up ever since," she said of the once-rural county, which continues to lead the state's population surge in the 1990s.

According to a Census report released Tuesday, Putnam County had a 17.2-percent increase in residents from April 1990 to July 1997, outpacing four counties in the Eastern Panhandle.

Now, housing developments sprinkle the landscape along Interstate 64, which bisects the county, making it easy for two-income families to divide the difference when commuting between Charleston and Huntington.

Rob Craig, 26, also remembers when shopping plazas and big grocery stores did not exist in the county.

"I can remember when none of this stuff was here," Craig said.

He then pointed to a line of traffic on nearby Interstate 64. "I remember when that wasn't here either, but you have to take the bad with the good," Craig commutes every day from neighboring Mason County to his job in Putnam County.

Hughes, 57, grew up in Putnam County. She says a strong business community, reputable banks, safe neighborhoods and a good hospital draws people to the area.

"I trust people here. For the most part, you can leave your house and let the door open and nothing would be missing," she said.

Report says logging safer, others still complaining

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia loggers are safer and more environmental-friendly than they were four years ago, although the number of valid complaints against them has increased, a Division of Forestry report says.

The complaints range from angry homeowners calling about noisy loggers to highway officials worried about damaged roads.

"Most of the loggers are doing a good job in terms of sediment control and safety," agency spokesman Ed Murriner said Wednesday.

Inspectors investigated 824 logging-related environmental problems last year, of which 641, or 77 percent were deemed valid, according to the report released Monday by agency director Bill Maxey.

Logger Terry Grimes says there are good reasons why more complaints are being filed.

"There are more loggers today than there were four years ago," he said.

"There are also a lot of environmental groups out there and a lot of (the complaining) is propaganda to make headlines," Grimes said.

James Earl Ray's health stalls appeals

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray's lawyers are unhappy about getting a new judge to oversee his bid for a trial but will not appeal because of his failing health, Ray's lead attorney said Wednesday.

"The appeal would stretch on for months, and I think Ray would be dead by then," lawyer William Pepper said from his office in London.

Ray, the confessed assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., is in critical condition in the prison ward of a Nashville hospital, suffering from liver disease.

Earlier this month, the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals removed the Memphis judge who has heard Ray's petitions for the past four years. The court said Judge Joe Brown appeared biased against prosecutors who oppose Ray's efforts to take back his guilty plea and go to trial.

After that ruling, Pepper said he would appeal Brown's removal. But then Ray, who turned 70 last week, was hospitalized and slipped into a coma. He has since emerged from the coma but remains seriously ill.

Pepper said he hopes the presiding judge for the state judicial district in Memphis appoints a new judge soon for Ray's case.

"Regardless of who the new judge is, we want to get it moved ahead," Pepper said.

He said, however, that the petition will end if Ray dies.

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Opinion

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"It's a hassle, but thieves prey on college kids."

— Capt. Alan Meek
Huntington Police Department

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the Parthenon

Page edited by Gary Hale

Dangerous slippery slope may follow bill supporting donations

Courtney OSTAFF
columnist

While my esteemed editor and I are about as far apart politically as possible, I have to concur with his stand on the issue of organ donation.

I too, believe that the bill in Missouri that would allow prisoners to exchange a kidney for a death sentence is morally wrong. I believe that the bill would place undue pressure on inmates to donate their kidneys, and perhaps would lead to careless death sentences. If a prisoner could simply donate a kidney to escape the sentence, then one could be helping society by sentencing him to death and gaining a kidney.

Ethically, how different is China's policy of selling body parts of executed prisoners? I personally believe that your body is something that you own, even after death, like a house. Prostituting bodies to escape punishment would turn prisoners into victims of our justice system.

I think that the slippery slope which the lawmakers of Missouri have embarked upon could, in time, lead to the situation in Brazil, where unwary tourists have organs stolen from them.

It's best to leave organ donation as a purely voluntary process.

'Bland' food, inconvenient lunch times upset freshman

To the editor:

I am a freshman living in Twin Towers East. The cafeteria food gets bland after eating it for a couple of days in a row. I enjoy eating at the Student Center, but why does lunch start at 1:30?

Who eats lunch between 1:30 and 3:25? Would it be that hard to start lunch at 11:30 or even noon? A lot of people I've talked to feel this way as well and I think it should be changed so students can get the most out of what they are paying for meals.

Patrick Rockwell
South Charleston Freshman

Courtesy of the USBIC Educational Foundation 800-767-2267



"WELCOME, SPORTS MERCHANDISING FANS!"

Editor's note:

Letters and columns may be edited to fit allotted space, correct errors, take out profanity, vulgarity or potentially libelous material.

Corridor H may open economic door

Lora KISER
columnist

West Virginians are constantly looking for more ways to heighten economic development for the betterment of our wild and wonderful state. One answer that has been proposed and debated is Corridor H.

If West Virginia builds a major highway from the northeastern part of the state to an already economically prominent part of Virginia, one can reasonably deduce that this opening to greener economic pastures can only be a boon to West Virginia businesses.

Take for example West Virginia tourism. Instead of people from the Eastern shore finding a long and windy trip to our mountains intimidating, they can enjoy a shorter ride, one with the occasional nice restaurant or outlet mall to visit along the way.

Likewise, our sister state will benefit from those coming in from the west, including many from West Virginia, taking to the highway for a long weekend somewhere in the Old Dominion.

Additionally, any D.C. or Baltimore-based company that needs a cheap but convenient place to put a warehouse or back office, can find more reasonable real estate in the underdeveloped counties west of Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan.

As a result, more West Virginians could have good paying jobs well beyond tourism. Even in an online age, easy access on the highways remains a key component for economic development. Sound like a tired argument? Perhaps, but it is true nonetheless. Take a look at the burgeoning modern metropolises in America: Atlanta, Charlotte, Nashville and San Diego just to name a few.

In addition to great new airport complexes, they also have impressive, interconnecting highway systems which first link their own citizens together for easy access in and out of the city, and then give them an exit to the outer world. In West Virginia, with the possible exception of Huntington, there are no real metropolitan areas.

Maybe there's a reason for that: no roads!

Bob Bennett, President Clinton's attorney, said that the president is "bewildered" by the accusations made by Kathleen Willey. Imagine how bewildered she was when he put her hand on his Chelsea Maker.

According to a new billboard sign in Huntington, a whopping 69 percent of Marshall University students do not binge drink. This would mean, of course, that only 31 percent do.

The chairman of the National Organization for Women (NOW), Patricia Ireland, said that if the allegations against Clinton are true regarding Kathleen Willey, this may not just be sexual harassment, but sexual assault and therefore even more intolerable.

NOW has lately been criticized for not coming out in support of the women alleging sexual misconduct against President Clinton. (NOW has always been one of his strongest supporters).

Despite disagreements in the past, conservatives and feminists can at least agree on one thing for the time being: Something must be done about Clinton's inappropriate behavior, not just in and of itself, which is bad enough, but especially because it took place in the White House. But, hey, the economy is doing great so who cares?

Sources reveal that President Clinton and O.J. Simpson have reached an important agreement: If Clinton will help O.J. find the man who killed Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman, O.J. will help Clinton find the man who had sex with Monica Lewinsky in the Oval Office.

Vice President Al Gore wants to spend \$20-\$50 million for a space satellite. This satellite will be capable of sending back pictures of the Earth to be broadcast 24 hours a day on cable television.

The purpose of these tranquil pictures is to help Americans in their endeavor for spirituality. Again, the Clinton administration spending your money wisely, and always at work for you.

Fraternity gives thanks for support

To the editor:

The members of The Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at Marshall University would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of the people who supported House Bill 4092, exempting collegiate fraternity and

sorority houses from property taxation. We are very thankful to the members of both the House and Senate for passing the bill, and to the local delegates from this area who led the charge by sponsoring and gathering support for it.

Since receiving the notification from Cabell County

Assessor Ottie Adkins that we were required to begin paying property taxes this year, we have been concerned that our chapter house and others here at Marshall would no longer be able to survive with such a financial burden. Thanks to the support of the Legislature, the local news media and the

Marshall University community, we can continue to operate, and provide housing to our members.

Sincerely,
Members of The Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

Let 18,000 readers know your view

by
mail

The Parthenon —
Letters 311 Smith
Hall, Huntington, W.Va. 25755

by phone

(304) 696-6696

by internet

parthenon@marshall.edu

by fax

(304) 696-2519

the Parthenon

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Happenings...

***your entertainment guide for activities and events at and outside of Marshall.**

On Campus

Thursday, March 19

Student Legal Aid, free IRS tax workshop, Memorial Student Center Lobby, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, call: 696-2285.

Graduate Student Council, executive committee meeting, MSC 2W20, 5 p.m.

Experimental Theatre, *A Chip in the Sugar*, a play in one act by Alan Bennet, Fine Arts Building, 8 p.m., free admission

Marshall Artists Series, *Daniel Heifetz and The Classical Band*, Keith-Albee Theatre, 8 p.m. For more information, call: 696-6656.

Campus Christian Center, *Campus Light Meeting*, 9 p.m. For more information, contact: Mark Mills at 696-3057.

Campus Crusade for Christ, *Prime Time*, Corbly Hall 105, 9:11 p.m.

Campus Christian Center, *United Methodist Students*, 9:05 p.m.

Campus Light Baptist Ministries, meeting, anyone welcome to attend. MSC 2W37, 9:05 p.m. For more information, contact: Dave Greear at 529-1545.

Friday, March 20

Habitat for Humanity, meet at the Campus Christian Center, 1 p.m.

Newman Center, *Stations of the Cross*, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 22

Newman Center, masses at 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. (with special Lenten Rite of Scrutiny)

In Huntington

Thursday, March 19

Drop Shop, *Fuel*, \$3 tickets, 1318 4th Ave. For more information, call 523-JAVA.

Friday, March 20

Drop Shop, *Slow Gherkin*, \$3 tickets, 1318 4th Ave. For more information, call 523-JAVA.

Graduate students may get their hoods

by **RENAE SKOGLUND**
reporter

Graduate students who want to do more than just rise as a group at graduation have the option of receiving more recognition by going through a special ceremony.

The 10th annual Graduate Hooding Ceremony will be May 8 at the Huntington City Hall Auditorium at 4 p.m. "The ceremony individually recognizes graduate degree candidates and those who graduated since the last hooding ceremony," Dr. Leonard J. Deutsch, dean of the Graduate College, said. As students cross the stage, they will be

hooded and presented with a certificate by a faculty member of their choice, Deutsch said.

Students wanting to participate are to contact the Graduate College or return a postcard mailed to them for that purpose, Deutsch said. The deadline is April 15, and by that time, each student must have contacted the faculty member who will be hooding him or her.

There is no fee to participate in the ceremony, but there are materials — a cap, gown and hood — the student is responsible for bringing, Deutsch said. These materials may be purchased at the Marshall Bookstore for approximately \$30, according to the Hooding Ceremony

guidelines.

The ceremony not only recognizes graduating students but others as well. "We also give the distinguished graduate student [alumna/alumnus] awards and the outstanding advising awards at this ceremony," Deutsch said.

Deutsch said these awards represent the people who earned their masters degree at Marshall University and now hold a significant position in the work world. The advisers award also represents those professors that did an outstanding job this semester.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Graduate College at (304) 696-6606.

Calling all entrepreneurs:

Business basics focus of program

by **CASSIUS HARRIS**
reporter

The Community Outreach Partnership Center is starting a new program called "Start Your Own Business—Be Your Own Boss," April 2, 9 a.m. to noon, at 1650 8th Ave.

The new program is designed to teach people the basics of operating a new business, according to Elaine Noble, director of Applied Research Division. Although anybody can participate, its target audience are welfare recipients and the working poor, Noble said. She said the program is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The program consists of eight video sessions and three live seminars, Noble said. The program teaches different sessions such as "Becoming an Entrepreneur," "Planning Your Business," "Financing Your Business" and "Things to Consider Before You Start," she said.

"Most of the courses can be taken at home, so it provides a great deal of flexibility," Noble said. "It is excellent for people who do not have a business background and have a demanding schedule."

Dr. Will Edwards, a certified economic development officer with Marshall and the State of West Virginia, is conducting the courses, Noble said. Noble explained that tuition waivers are based on number and annual household incomes. The class is

"Ultimately, they will be given the chance to customize their own approach to starting a business."

— **Elaine Noble**,
Applied Research Division director

limited to 20 participants and there will be 15 tuition waivers available, she said.

"No college experience is required to take this course, and a person may be able to participate even if he or she does not have a high school diploma," Noble said. "We want this course to appeal to as many people as possible."

Applications and information may be obtained by contacting the Community Outreach Partnership program at 696-4871 or Elaine Noble at 696-6251.

"Participants in this program will learn how to turn ideas into action and the process of overcoming barriers," Noble said. "Ultimately, they will be given the chance to customize their own approach to starting a business."

Film to show problems women face

by **LISA M. SOPKO**
reporter

A film exposing the injustices women face in various cultures will be screened Sunday.

Cosponsored by the League of Women Voters (LWV) and the YWCA, the film titled "Defending our Daughters: The Rights of Women in the World," narrated by Meryl Streep, will begin at 2 p.m. at

the YWCA.

"The film is a rather forceful one," said Dr. Monserrat Miller, assistant professor of history and a Drinko Fellow. "It deals with the use of rape as a weapon in Yugoslavia, repressive laws against women in Pakistan and female circumcision in Africa."

The film will be followed by a panel discussion on the needs of women. Leading the discussion will be Miller and Wendy

Thomas, a member of the Women's Commission and a representative of the LWV.

"I'll be talking about the historical context for various problems faced by women today and why these problems exist," Miller said.

More information about the film may be obtained by calling Miller at (304) 696-2723.

Feeling poetic?

The Parthenon is seeking poetry for an upcoming page.

Workshop aims for minorities, disadvantaged

by **CASSIUS HARRIS**
reporter

The Small Business Development Center will sponsor a workshop for Minorities and the Disadvantaged, Tuesday, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Huntington Regional of Commerce, 720 Fourth Ave.

"The SBA 8-A Workshop for Minorities and Disadvantaged will provide participants access to a variety of business development services," according to David Blackburn, project coordinator. "They will get the opportunity to receive federal contracts on a sole-source or limited competition basis."

The workshop is free and open to the public, Blackburn said. More information may be obtained by contacting Blackburn in the Small Business Development at 696-6798.

The Small Business Development Center is a division of the Community and Technical College, Blackburn said. Its services include training programs, business consultation, pre-venture counseling, loan packaging and distribution of resource



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SCAMS

from page one

some of these companies, there is fine print — very fine print."

The marks of a good travel group, according to Robinson, are giving specific details, exact directions and other information to students, taking time to answer questions, asking for checks or money orders and sending information in the mail.

Robinson said when students are talking on the phone with a prospective agency, they should ask a lot of questions, check with airlines if air fare is included, and get reservation numbers and confirmations.

He also said every group which does business in the state of West Virginia must register with the Attorney General's Office.

"Students should never send cash in the mail or give out private information over the phone," he said. "If they are unsure of a group or have

any doubts, they can also call the Attorney General's Office."

Other options for guarding against travel scams include contacting state offices of tourism, local travel agencies, city chambers of commerce and better business bureaus.

"The best way to get information is by word of mouth," Weekly said. "If travel agencies or other people haven't heard of the company, there's a chance to get ripped off."

Weekly also said the best advice he could give is for students to stick with reputable companies, because you "get what you pay for."

Marshall University Police Captain, Jim Terry, said the 1994 New York bus trip scam investigation was turned over to United States postal inspectors, but to his knowledge, the people never got their money back.

More information about travel scams may be obtained by calling the West Virginia Attorney General's Office Consumer Hotline 1-800-368-8808.

Bestselling author to present her views of Appalachian women

by ERRIN JEWELL
reporter

A Kentucky native and author will present her views of Appalachian women April 2 as part of the Year of the Book Celebration and as the featured speaker of the Honors Convocation.

Bobbie Ann Mason will speak at 11 a.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

Dr. Alan Gould, executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Center, said Mason will "complement the presentation of Shirley Lumpkin, 1997-98 Drinko fellow and professor of English."

Gould said Mason happens to fit in neatly with Lumpkin's presentation, titled "Women in Appalachia."

He said Mason's works have appeared in periodicals such as The New York Times, Harper's, and The Washington Post Magazine. She has written several best-selling books with southern or Appalachian themes, including Shiloh and Other Stories and Feather Crowns. The 1989 motion picture, "In Country," was based on her book and starred Bruce Willis.

Tax experts to assist international students

by LISA M. SOPKO
reporter

Three tax experts will be featured at the 1998 International Student Tax Assistance Workshop Wednesday.

Sponsored by the Center for International Programs, the workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 2W9 of Memorial Student Center.

Bill Adams and Terry Pullen of the Internal Revenue Service and Tisch Alexander of the West Virginia State Department of Tax and Revenue will be available at the workshop to help all international students file their 1997 federal and state tax returns.

"We sponsor this program every year," said Scott C. Hoppe, director of the International Students and Scholars Program. "It's a great opportunity for international students to save a lot of cost, time and effort."

All students holding non-immigrant status are encouraged to attend, Hoppe said. They should bring their I-20 or IAP-66, passport and any of the following forms they have received: W-2, 1042-S, 1099 INT or any other form that was marked "Important Tax Documents Enclosed" on the envelope, Hoppe said.

More information on the tax workshop may be obtained by calling Hoppe at (304) 696-2379.

DROP

from page one

After the drop form has been signed, it must be taken to a registration window in Old Main for the class to be officially dropped, she said.

"You must bring your student identification card, too," she said. "We won't drop classes without it."

Ferguson said the Friday deadline is necessary because faculty members "want students

to be more committed to their studies.

"We have a very liberal drop policy compared to most other universities," Ferguson said. "We try to use our policy to get students to give their best effort towards courses. If students know they can drop classes anytime during the semester, they may not try as hard to do well in their classes."

She said with the elimination of the WP/WF [withdrawn passing/withdrawn failing] policy, students who drop classes will receive Ws for the classes they dropped.

COS dean says coral reefs ideal spring break getaway

by NICOLE M. WRIGHT
reporter

While students are soaking up the rays, faculty will be catching up on paperwork.

Dr. Thomas A. Storch, dean of the College of Science, said he has to stay at the university and do some paperwork. But where would the dean go if he could for spring break?

Scuba diving on the coral reefs would be his spring break destination.

"I have done diving in the Caribbean Sea and northwest Pacific Ocean," Storch said.

He said it is very interesting to see the fish, coral reefs, weeds and sunken ships.

In the past he did academic work in limnology which is the

study of freshwater systems.

"I was doing a lot of work with surface lakes obtaining samples from a boat," Storch said.

Then at the age of 40, Storch went scuba diving for a research project and now he does it for the personal experience.

He said while scuba diving in the ocean he stays under for a significant period of time. "The typical time to stay under water is one hour," he said.

"To see real aquatic environment is really exciting," Storch said.

Storch said the most unique experience was when he went to the Trinidad and Tabago coast near South America in

the Atlantic Ocean. "We were told due to large waves in the ocean we had to zoom down into the water."

So he waited for other divers and they swam toward the clear water. "I could see beautiful coral and fish everywhere, then I saw a toothbrush," Storch said.

Storch said he was 40 or 50 feet underwater and a toothbrush was in the ocean. Then he swam further and a gym shoe showed up out of nowhere.

"I go to a unique place and think nobody's around to see a man-made article in the ocean," Storch said.

"Oh no, it never ends," he said about technology being everywhere.

AGENDA

from page one

Also on the agenda is the Curriculum Committee Recommendation, SR-97-98-40, that recommends the deletion of the Computer Science and Software Development program, with reservations.

According to SR-97-98-40, "The committee found no

compelling reason to maintain the program. Yet, members felt uneasy having not heard verbally from opponents."

The Senate will consider the Curriculum Committee Recommendation, SR-97-98-39, that proposes a B.A. degree in Multidisciplinary Studies.

According to SR-97-98-39, the degree will offer "undergraduate students an opportu-

nity to develop a knowledge base in two areas of emphasis with a strong core of communication and computer courses."

Included in the proposed degree is a Create-Your-Own-Major option that "is available for Honors students only" and requires "permission of the chairs of the departments involved," according to SR-97-98-39.

ADVICE

from page one

should tell someone responsible or a close friend, not acquaintances. We've had some people ripped off by their so-called 'friends'," he said.

Terry said, "Apartments are a completely different environment compared to the residence halls. We haven't had any problems with break-ins in the dormitories."

Sgt. Mark Rhodes said there will be a heightened patrol around the apartments off campus. "We will be paying closer attention to these apartments close to campus, and if we see something suspicious out of our jurisdiction,

we will notify the Huntington Police," Rhodes said.

"It would definitely be advantageous if off-campus residents know their neighbors," Rhodes said. "With all of the new students moving things in and out of these apartments, it doesn't look quite as suspicious to see this kind of thing. If you know your neighbors, they'll know whether it's you or a thief moving your things out of the apartment."

Terry also gave tips on securing possessions while on spring break. "It is important that you don't leave people you just met in your hotel room while unattended," Terry said. "It is also wise to

leave all valuables such as checks and credit cards in the hotel safes. The most important thing, though, is to be aware of your surroundings, drink responsibly and don't get too careless."

Rhodes said people should not travel with large amounts of cash. "If possible, use traveler's checks and secure all credit cards," he said. "Most important, keep what cash you do bring somewhere other than your purse or wallet."

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the Parthenon

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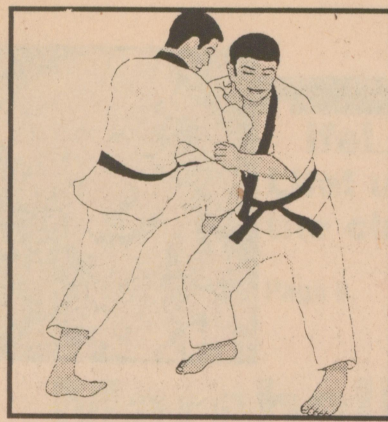
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Sports



American dies in fight

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — An American died Wednesday of injuries sustained in a bout of no-holds-barred "ultimate fighting," a mix of martial arts, wrestling and boxing.

Douglas Dedge, 31, of Chipley, Fla., was hospitalized Monday night after collapsing in the ring. He died of severe brain injuries, said Petro Spasichenko, chief emergency ward doctor at Kiev's Institute of Neurosurgery.

Page edited by Scott Parsons

the **Parthenon**

Thursday, March 19, 1998

7

Baseball team's confidence grows as season nears end

by **CHRIS HAGY**
reporter

Baseball coach Craig Antush is rallying his team to victory in preparation for the Mid-American Conference championship series.

Tuesday, Antush and his team added one more win to their belts with a 13-9 victory against the University of Kentucky for a season record of 6-9. The Thundering Herd took control of the game during the first inning with 11 back-to-back runs, Antush said.

"All of my starters had at least two hits off the plate with 22 combined for the team," Antush said.

The Herd's play from the field was equally strong, Antush said. "We struck out four and only walked one. Twelve hits were given up,

but we made no critical errors. This is the second time we've beat UK in the 90s," he said.

The baseball team will begin a three game home series against Cleveland State University.

"We're coming up to the last four games before the start of the MAC conference championships," Antush said. "I've seen that Cleveland has played a tough schedule this season, a lot like ours last

"We need to primarily focus on strong fundamentals of throwing, pitching, catching and hitting to win."

— **Craig Antush**
Marshall University head baseball coach

year, but, as far as scouting reports, none were available as of the sixteenth of this month."

As of yet, Antush said no roster is official for this weekend's games. A final line-up and pitching schedule will be made public Thursday, he said.

Immediately following Monday's game three of the Cleveland State series, the Herd will

travel to Morehead, Ky., Tuesday, March 24, to face Morehead State University at 3 p.m.

"This will be our final regular season game before the MAC championship opener," Antush said.

Saturday, March 28, the baseball team will face Central Michigan University at Saint Cloud Commons in their first game of the MAC championships.

Antush said he is confident in his team's abilities entering into the series. However, he believes steps should be taken one at a time.

"I think it's critical that we are successful against Cleveland and Morehead first," Antush said. "With our 6-9 record, I see a lot of promise ahead. We need to primarily focus on strong fundamentals of throwing, pitching, catching and hitting to win," he said.

Waltrip to sell race team

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Three-time Winston Cup champion Darrell Waltrip is selling his race team in the midst of the worst season of his 27-year career.

"I've spent \$1 million out of my own pocket so far this season, and I can't keep doing that," Waltrip said Tuesday at a practice session at Nashville Speedway. "I'm selling my team to somebody with deeper pockets."

The 51-year-old driver, in his eighth season as an owner-driver, said he will sell the Charlotte, N.C.-based team after Sunday's race at Darlington, S.C.

Waltrip, of Franklin, Tenn., said headaches with sponsors have distracted him from the sport.

"Not having to deal with the

day-to-day operation will free me to concentrate solely on driving a race car. Maybe that's what I should have been doing all along," he told The Tennessean.

Waltrip dropped his primary sponsor, Speedblock Inc., last week, in a dispute over their contract.

Waltrip is 40th in the driver standings after beginning the season with finishes of 33rd at Daytona, 41st at Rockingham, 35th at Las Vegas and 40th at Atlanta.

He said he was not sure how the sale would affect him.

"If (the new owner) wants someone else to drive, I'll try to find another driving job."

"I know I can still drive a race car and win races. I feel confident I'll get an offer from somebody, somewhere," he

Herd basketball players teach kids dangers of drugs

By **ERRIN JEWELL**
reporter

Just say no.

This was the message relayed by two members of the men's basketball team to students Monday at Kellogg Middle School. Sophomores Brian Faulkner and Cournelius Jackson spoke to approximately 200 students at the school about remaining drug free.

"We just talked to the kids about saying no to drugs," Jackson said. "We told them some of the bad things drugs can do to you and how important it is to be drug free."

Coach Mark Downey, who accompa-

nied the players, said they also stressed the importance of setting goals and remaining in school.

The kids asked the players questions after they spoke to them.

"They asked them some crazy questions," Downey said. "They wanted to know how many points they scored in a game, where they went to high school and if playing for a college team is tough."

Jackson said, "When the kids found out Joda Burgess is my roommate, they wanted to know if he snores."

Downey said the players interacted very well with the students. He said Faulkner "really got them involved in the conversation." Downey said

Jackson offered the students some wise words about resisting peer pressure to do drugs.

"He told them about some people he knew who did drugs and then went from being successful to being failures," Downey said. "The [players] really got the message across."

"I was very impressed with the way they worked with the kids. Keith Veney and John Brannen [former basketball players] spoke to children frequently when they were here, and I think Brian and Cornelius did an even better job than they did."

Downey said the team speaks to children several times throughout the year.

Sprewell charged with reckless driving

MARTINEZ, Calif. (AP) — Suspended basketball star Latrell Sprewell was charged today with reckless driving stemming from a car crash that injured two people, the district attorney's office said.

The Golden State Warriors guard, suspended for attacking Warriors coach P.J.

Carlesimo, faces 30 days in jail on the misdemeanor charge.

Sprewell is accused of injuring two people after driving 90 mph and slamming his car into another vehicle as he tried to swerve back onto a freeway from an exit lane. He struck sand barrels and

smashed his 1997 Mercedes into a Toyota Corolla, which flipped when both cars crashed into a concrete wall, Kroeger said.

Sprewell was unhurt, but the two people in the other vehicle — Arnulfo Perlas, 54, and Irma Feliciano, 53 — sustained minor injuries.

In December, after attacking Carlesimo, Sprewell was suspended from the NBA for a year and dropped from the team. An arbitrator reinstated Sprewell's \$32 million contract and reduced his suspension to the end of the season, saying the penalties were too harsh.

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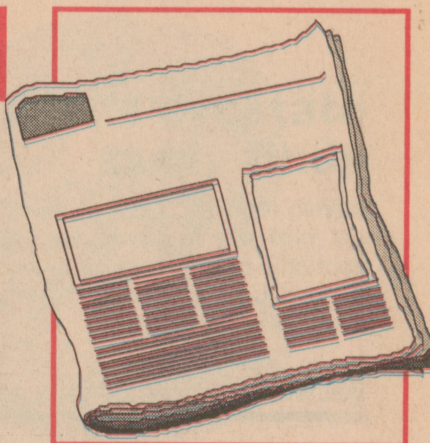
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Life!

What's happening?

Calendar has moved for special issue

Check out what's happening on campus and off during the rest of this week and into the weekend in Happenings, The Parthenon's calendar of events. In today's issue, the calendar has moved to page 5 to make room for today's special Life! feature.



Thursday, March 19, 1998
Page edited by Michelle Polakovs

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Photo by
Michelle
Polakovs

Story by
Michelle
Polakovs

Growing up learning to laugh

A personal account of what it was like for the daughter of a professional circus clown



Me and my dad, Michael Polakovs (COCO the Clown), backstage at Ringling Bros. & Barnum Bailey Circus.

was sitting in one of those late 60s, scooped out, round plastic chairs, dozing in and out of sleep when panic stricken screams startled me to full consciousness. I heard, "Oh, my God" amongst them distinctly as my mother's. Then "BAM" and a "whoosh" of cool air rushes around me. Men, women and my mother come rushing to me, pure fear in their eyes.

It was around 4 a.m. and I was sitting off-stage on the set of the NBC "Today Show" in New York. "Are you OK? Are you OK?" I remember the concerned crew saying. I nodded "yes" to them. My mom picked me up into her arms. The crew picked up the orange, curving designed back-drop that had fallen over me miraculously missing me through one of the cut-out holes.

Unscathed, I was placed in a chair a safe distance away from the props and was soon back to dozing.

I was born into a "showbiz" family. My dad, Coco the Clown, was working for Ringling Bros. & Barnum Bailey Circus as an advance clown. It was his job to go ahead of the circus and promote it. He would visit, radio and television stations giving interviews and talking about "The Greatest Show on Earth."

My little brother, David; my mom, Hazel, and my dad and I would travel from town to town meeting promoters in the early morning to visit hospitals and schools.

It was on one of these visits to a children's hospital David became the world's youngest profes-

sional clown. Usually my mother would wait in the lobby with us kids while dad would visit the very sick children. Hospital rules prevented small children from entering the wards.

One day it was just dad and Davey. When dad started back to the children's wing my brother in tow, the nurse told him David could not go. Dad thinking quick, said "but he is part of the act." The nurse looked at him, not sure. Dad painted my brother's tiny face in clown make-up to match his. He put on a spare clown wig, my grandfather's, and a pair of my granddaddy COCO's clown boots. David, at 18 months of age, was reborn "COCONUT the Clown." A photographer from the Associated Press picked up the story, it went nationwide, and Ringling bosses were ecstatic.

Life on the road with COCO the Clown was a new adventure daily. I tasted my first lobster in Quebec, rode on my first elephant in Los Angeles, drank my first Shirley Temple in New York City and posed on my first flying hamburger in Miami.

Yes, I said my first flying hamburger. Dad designed the costume and performed in the first eight commercials of Ronald McDonald. He was called by executives at McDonalds after they heard him in an interview on Chicago radio.

Dad said he was asked to give up his "COCO The Clown" character and to stay on as "Ronald McDonald" but felt that Ronald was a passing phase and would not give up a family tradition.

Was I in awe? Did I feel lucky or special? Heck no. I was a kid having fun and it was all just part of my dad's job.

While David and I were in grade school, we never attended a full year of class. We would come in from the road approximately a month after school had started. We would be packed and ready to leave approximately a month before school was out. Our teachers believed our travels were an education in themselves. I had become pretty proficient in map reading by second grade. I guess my folks were real tired of "How much further is it?"

Not only did we travel ahead promoting the circus, but dad would often work in the circus, too. David and I roamed freely among the tiger cages and in and out of dressing rooms. We gorged ourselves on free popcorn and cotton candy and must have seen a thousand shows. We had playmates on the circus, some who spoke little English. Some of the kids were German, Hungarian or Mexican among others. There were even two baby clowns that David and I fell in love with. Dad's pals, however, were not children, they were dwarfs.

Some kid's parents were wire walkers, stilt walkers, tumblers or trapeze artists. We never were at a loss for games to play. In between shows we

would run to the center ring with a bunch of kids and pretend to be lion tamers or clowns. We would mimic the acts we had seen a hundred times before.

COCONUT retired from show business to attend first grade. Dad left Ringling Bros. in 1971 and started his own show, taking it to New York.

This is when I truly learned how funny he was. COCO's Musical Comix was a stage show with a full clown band. Two of my older brothers played in the band. The band would play pop music and between songs do vaudeville type comedy sketches. The audiences would roar with laughter night after night as we toured New York to packed houses. I would sit in the audience every night and laugh hysterically. I knew what was going to happen, but I think I laughed in anticipation for the audience.

I never liked to be in the limelight nor in front of the camera. I was shy. I would think up things for my brother to say or do to be funny. But it was in New York that necessity dictated that I join the show.

Dad would do a magic trick that called for an assistant. Mom bought me a little red, white and blue tennis outfit and a brand new pair of tennis shoes as a costume. I would go out on stage every night for this one trick. All I had to do was be cute. Dad would pretend to mesmerize me with some kind of clown hypnosis. I pretended to be under a trance. I took my acting part seriously, which was not good to do around a clown. However, I was in

a trance and he and Coconut would put me on this levitation table. The trick was to create the illusion that I was levitating into midair. But my dad, seizing on a comic opportunity, would not simply levitate me but poke me in the belly causing me to giggle, causing the audience to cackle. He was addicted to laughter and a true improvisation master.

After high school came college and David and I seldom traveled with Mom and Dad anymore. My brother went on to become a statistician and seldom works as Coconut.

Dad is now retired and spends his clowning time at clown camps lecturing to admiring newcomers to the business. In 1991 he was inducted into the Clown Hall of Fame in Devlin, Wisconsin.

Growing up a circus brat was a great experience filled with wonderful adventures, travel and fringe benefits. But it has its sad side too. While I was a kid I was singled in front of the class as "This is COCO the Clown's daughter," year after year. Sometimes I just wanted to fit in, have friends because of me, not because of who my dad was. But as an adult I realize that I was an extremely lucky kid to have seen the country and met some fantastic people.

RIGHT: COCO welcomes Lady Bird Johnson to the circus in 1965.

BELOW: COCO and COCONUT perform a magic trick for hospitalized children.

